

DRY GOODS MEN WELCOME THE MAYOR'S SALT WATER MAINS.

Underwriters Indorse the Plan and Send a Committee to Discuss the Details.

It Will Give Protection the Shopping District Doesn't Have Now—Current of Water Around Stores Would Keep Advancing Flames Back—How That Saved Building in Baltimore.

The New York Board of Fire Underwriters met yesterday and considered the letter of Mayor McClellan asking for their aid and advice in considering the details of his plan for a system of secondary fire protection through salt water mains and pumping stations.

At the suggestion of President Ogden, to whom the Mayor's letter was addressed, the committee on water supply, of which Henry W. Eaton is the chairman, was authorized to act as the board's committee of conference with the Mayor.

The board of fire underwriters asked for this thing from Mayor Van Wyck and from Mayor Strong and never got any real consideration of the plan as yet.

"What's this talk about only having that extra protection from Fourteenth street down?" he said. "It ought to cover every block of the city south of Forty-second street. Now that we are in a fair way to get an improvement that the city ought to have had a long time ago and must have now, let's do it right."

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The question as to what would be best to do was a matter of much debate among the Pennsylvania officials and directors.

In carrying out this plan Mr. Rea, who will personally superintend it, will have the assistance of the board of consulting engineers, the most expert men in the various lines in this country.

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It is understood that pressure will be brought to bear on the Erie and the Lackawanna railroads. The Erie, which was made to meet a differential according to Philadelphia by the Pennsylvania and Lehigh Valley, brings the rate to 3 cents the 100 pounds, and it is understood that the Pennsylvania lowers this rate the reduction will again be met.

Efforts were under way yesterday to adjust the differences which have resulted from the grain rate cuts, but they met with little success. They will be continued.

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